ABSTRACT

A method of sharpening a digital image having image pixels according to its material content, includes the steps of: generating a subject matter belief map corresponding spatially to the image pixels, having belief values indicating the likelihood that respective image pixels are representative of a particular subject matter; generating a noisy pixel belief map corresponding spatially to the image pixels having belief values indicating the likelihood that the modulation about respective pixels are due to system noise; generating gain map from the subject matter belief map and the noisy pixel belief map having values that indicate the degree of sharpening to be applied to the image pixels; and using the gain map to sharpen the image.

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